

Sl No 6(1)

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No. 12017/02/2018-SCD (R.L. Cell)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
New Delhi, dated: 15.03.2018

To,

The Chief Secretaries to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

**Subject:** Need to avoid the nomenclature "Dalit" for the members belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) letter No. BC 12025/44/80-SC&BCD.I/IV, dated 10.02.1982, addressed to all the State Governments /Union Territory Administrations in which a request was made to issue instructions to the authorities empowered to issue the Scheduled Castes certificates, not to insert the word 'Harijan' in the Scheduled Caste certificates, but to mention only the caste to which the person belongs and which has been recognised as Scheduled Caste under the Presidential Orders. Subsequently, the Ministry of Welfare (now Social Justice and Empowerment), vide letter No. 12025/14/90-SCD (R.L.Cell), dated 16.08.1990, again requested the State Governments/ UT Administrations that for all official transactions, matters, dealings, certificates etc., the Constitutional term, 'Scheduled Caste' in English and its appropriate translation in other national languages should alone be used for denoting the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Thereafter, in compliance with recommendation of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee the aforesaid instructions were again reiterated vide this Ministry's letter No. 17020/64/2010-SCD (R.L.Cell) dated 22.11.2012.

2. The Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior Bench in its order dated 15.01.2018 passed in W.P. No. 20420 of 2017 (PIL)-Dr. Mohanlal Mahor Vs.Union of India & Ors. has directed as under:-

".....that the Central Government/ State Government and its functionaries would refrain from using the nomenclature 'Dalit' for the members belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as the same does not find mentioned in the Constitution of India or any statute."

3. All the State Governments /U.T. Administrations are requested that for all official transactions, matters, dealings, certificates etc., the Constitutional term, 'Scheduled Caste' in English, and its appropriate translation in other national languages should alone be used for denoting the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential Orders issued under Article 341 of the Constitution of India.


Yours faithfully,

  
(Arvind Kumar)  
Director (SCD)  
Tel: 23385491

No. 12017/02/2018-SCD (R.L. Cell), New Delhi,  
Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

dated: 15.03.2018

- 1) All Central Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
- 2) The Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delhi-110069.
- 3) The Chairperson, Staff Selection Commission, Block No.-12, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
- 4) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Pocket-9, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110124.
- 5) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.
- 6) The Joint Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi – 110003.
- 7) All Bureau Heads/ Divisional Heads/ Desks/ Sections of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

  
(Arvind Kumar)  
Director (SCD)

No. BC. 12025/44/80-SC&BCD.I/ IV  
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar  
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya

*New Delhi dated 10th February, 1982.*

To

The Chief Secretaries to  
All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Subject:-- Non-insertion of the words 'Harijan and Girijan' in Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Certificates.

Sir,

I am directed to say that it has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that some of the officers in the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, who have been authorised to issue the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Certificates are inserting the words 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in such certificates.

2. In this connection, attention is invited to this Ministry's letter No.BC.12025/2/76-SCT (I), dated 22-3-1977, enclosing therewith a copy of the Department of Personnel & A.R.'s letter No.13/2/74-Estt.(SCT) dated 5-8-1975 and the form in which the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Certificates have to be issued by the officers authorised to do so. In the form of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Certificate, there is column for writing the word 'Harijan' or 'Girijan' and the authority issuing the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Certificate has to mention only the caste/tribe to which the person belongs and which has been recognised as Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe under the Presidential Orders(to be quoted).

3. All the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are, therefore, requested to issue instructions to the authorities, who have been empowered to issue the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Certificates, not to insert the word 'Harijan' or 'Girijan' in the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Certificates and to issue the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Certificates, only in the form as prescribed by the Government of India for this purpose.

Yours faithfully,  
Sd/-  
(B.N. Srivastava)  
Director.

No. BC. 12025/44/80 SC & BCD.I/ IV

*Dated 10th February, 1982.*

Copy forwarded to:-

1. Department of Personnel & A. R. Establishment (SCT) Section, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, U. P.S.C, New Delhi.
3. The Chairman, Staff Selection Commission, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. All the Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
5. The Commissioner for SC/ST, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
6. The Secretary, Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Lok Nayak Bhawan New Delhi.
7. SC&BC.I/ SC&BC II/ SC&BC III Sections/PCR Cell/PCR Desk.
8. 100 Spare Copies.

Sd/-  
(B.N. Srivastava)  
Director.

No. BC. 12025/14/90-SCD (R.L.Cell)  
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar  
Ministry of Welfare /Kalyan Mantralaya  
Department of Welfare /Kalyan Vibhag

*Shastri Bhawan, A-Wing,  
New Delhi dated 16th August, 1990.*

To

The Chief Secretaries to  
All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Subject:-- Avoidance of the terms like "Harijan" and "Girijan" in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in official matters, dealings etc.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Ministry of Home Affairs letter No.12025/44/80-SC&BCD.I/IV, dated 10-2-1982 addressed to all the State Governments/U.T Administrations in which a request was made to issue instructions to the certificate issuing authorities not to insert the word 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe certificates, but to mention only the name of the caste/tribe to which the person belongs. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was also requested vide letter No.12025/44/80-SC&BCD.I/IV, dated 1-2-1982 to use the terms 'Scheduled Castes' and 'Scheduled Tribe' instead of 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' respectively in English and their appropriate translations in other national languages in public mass media. On request by the Ministry of Home Affairs (now Ministry of Welfare) vide its letter No.12025/17/82-SC&BCD-IV/I, dated 19-10-1982 to the erst-while Ministry of Education and Culture (now Human Resource Development), it was brought to the notice of all the educational institutions under their control regarding the use of the terms Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes instead of the terms Harijan and Girijan in the School Leaving Certificates.

2. It has been represented from time to time by the various Organisations/Associations working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that many State Governments/U.T Administrations use the words 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in official matters, dealings, etc. These organisations have represented that the words 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' are derogatory and these words are often used for denoting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by all the Governmental agencies. In this connection, it is clarified that nowhere in the Constitution of India, the words Harijan and Girijan are used for denoting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. In so far as the communities scheduled in the Presidential Orders of 1950 and 1951 are concerned, the term Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are invariably used. The use of any other term may introduce ambiguity, apart from producing a feeling of resentment in the minds of conscious members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

3. In view of the position explained above, it is requested that for all official transactions, matters, dealings, certificates etc., the constitutional terms Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in English and their appropriate translation in other national languages should alone be used for denoting the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes included in the Presidential Orders

mentioned above and for referring to those castes and tribes. The State Governments/Union territory Administrations are also requested that in the names of the Departments which are in overall charge of the development/welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever terms like 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' are used, the Constitutional terms Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes be substituted.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-  
(MATA PRASAD)  
Additional Secretary to the Government of India

No. BC. 12025/14/90-SCD (R.L.Cell)

*Dated 16th August, 1990.*

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi
2. Secretary, Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, Block No.12, Lodi Road, New Delhi.
3. All the Ministries/Departments, Government of India
4. Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Commissioner for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
6. Comptroller & Auditor General of India, New Delhi
7. Election of India, New Delhi
8. All Sections in SCD Division/T.D. Division, New Delhi
9. All Officers in the Ministry of Welfare, New Delhi.

Sd/-  
(MATA PRASAD)  
Additional Secretary to the Government of India

No. 17020/64/2010-SCD (R.L. Cell)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
New Delhi, dated: 22.11.2012

To,

The Chief Secretaries,  
All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Subject: Need to avoid the use of term "Harijan" in respect of Scheduled Castes in official communications and transactions.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) letter No. BC 12025/44/80-SC&BCD.I/IV, dated 10.02.1982, in which all the State Governments /Union Territory Administrations were requested to issue instructions to the authorities who were empowered to issue the Scheduled Castes certificates, not to insert the word 'Harijan' in the Scheduled Caste certificates, but to mention only the name of the caste to which the person belongs. Subsequently, the Ministry of Welfare ( now Social Justice and Empowerment), vide letter No. 12025/14/90-SCD (R.L.Cell), dated 16.08.1990, had again requested the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, that for all official transactions, matters, dealings, certificates etc., the Constitutional term, 'Scheduled Caste' in English and its appropriate translation in other national languages should alone be used for denoting the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes included in the Presidential Orders issued under Article 341 of the Constitution. The State Governments/ U.T. Administrations were also requested that in the names of departments, which are in overall charge of development/welfare of Scheduled Castes, the term 'Harijan' etc. should not be used.

2. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, in its Ninth Report presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.08.2010, inter-alia observed as follows:-

*".....the circular issued way back in 1982 is very old which has lost its sanctity and purpose leading to its non compliance..... As such, there is widespread use of the word 'Harijan' across the country deprecating the status of the underprivileged sections of the society."*

Accordingly, the Committee has recommended that this Ministry issue fresh guidelines, instructions to States/U.Ts directing them to ensure the non-use of the word "Harijan" not only in caste certificates but also otherwise.

3. All the State Governments /U.T. Administrations are again requested that for all official transactions, matters, dealings, certificates etc., the Constitutional term, 'Scheduled Caste' in English, and its appropriate translation in other national languages should alone be used for denoting the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes included in the Orders issued by the President under Article 341 of the Constitution of India.

4. Action taken on the above may kindly be intimated to the undersigned.

Encl: as above.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-  
(P. L. Negi)  
Director (SCD)  
Tel: 23385491

No. 17020/64/2010-SCD (R.L. Cell),

Dated: 22.11.2012

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. All Central Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
2. The Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delhi-110069.
3. The Chairperson, Staff Selection Commission, Block No.12, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
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5. Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.
6. The Joint Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi – 110003.
7. All Bureau Heads/ Divisional Heads/ Desks/ Sections of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Sd/-  
(P. L. Negi)  
Director (SCD)  
Tel: 23385491